

**REMARKS**

Appreciation is hereby expressed to Examiner Davis for the telephone interview so courteously and professionally conducted herein on September 27, 2004. Pursuant to that interview, Claims 5 and 8 have been amended to more definitely set forth the invention and obviate the rejection. Support for the amendment of Claim 5 can be found in the Specification in Figures 3(b) and 4, and on page 8, fourth paragraph. The present amendment is deemed not to introduce new matter. Claims 5-6 and 8-12 are in the application.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 5-6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

As discussed with Examiner Davis, claim 5 has been amended to delete the objectionable term "linear", based on our discussion of Figure 3(b) and the first embodiment of the present invention. Furthermore, claim 5 has been amended to replace the term "point" with "tip". It is believed, based on the Examiner's comments during the interview, that such amendments overcome the instant rejection.

For these reasons, it is believed that the Examiner would be justified in no longer maintaining the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 8 has been amended to eliminate the insufficiency of antecedent basis referred to by the Examiner. In particular, claim 8 has been amended to now state "a flat surface of the guide

portion is comprised of a straight portion and an arc portion continuing to the cutting edges on both sides", rather than "the flat surface...". As discussed with the Examiner, the flat surface of the first embodiment shown in Figure 3(b) is shown as "3" and, although the "flat surface" is not mentioned in claim 5, the recitation of same in amended claim 8 to describe same is believed to be proper, as the element is clearly illustrated in Figure 3(b).

It is believed that, in view of the amendment to claim 8, the rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

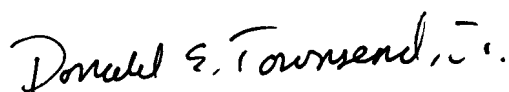
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed at the present time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSEND & BANTA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Townsend", written in a cursive style.

Donald E. Townsend  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Townsend, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

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